

situations parents are supplicants or petitioners for child care because their need for care is immediate, and if they can't find care, they could lose their jobs. This forces the parents, in some cases, to settle for less than adequate care for their children. Licensing does not prevent parents from choosing who takes care of their children. It gives the parent a degree of reassurance that minimal, and I underline minimal, fire, health and safety requirements are met and, and this I think is one very important item, it gives a guarantee that no one in the care giver's family has a record of offenses against children. This bill as proposed by Senator Kelly renders a disservice to unlicensed care givers because it fails to address the medical and accident liability of the care giver of children under her care. Liability insurance is not available to unlicensed homes who provide care for more than four children. It is available for those who care for less than four children. With inflation and without licensing regulations, a care giver who is struggling to make ends meet financially may be tempted to take more children than she can adequately supervise. This could lead to abused and neglected children. We have a responsibility for the children in the State of Nebraska. We are charged with that responsibility when we serve in these seats in the Legislature. I urge you not to support LB 372.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch. You have a motion?

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion. I move to amend the committee amendments: Read. (See page 160, Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR KOCH: I think it is line 14, Mr. Clerk, but that is my mistake. If you look at the amended bill, it would probably be line 14 but the important thing is to amend the number of nine and reduce it to five. Others say how about four and possibly it should be none. But I offer this amendment in hopes that if we are really trying to meet some unique needs of individuals as I have visited with several Senators in very small villages and communities which are very rural and I believe that five has to be the magic number. I can't conceive us allowing an unsolicited baby-sitter of nine children with only one person for up to twelve hours. It would go against everything I believe morally and consciously. I know that people are concerned about rules and regulations and intervention but I think our prime concern in this body is to make certain that the youth of this state to the best that we can receive as much safety for their own selves as they can, because after all, they are not mature people, cannot speak for themselves. Therefore, this body in its wisdom must help to provide as much safety and care as they can. So I offer the amendment of five, even if it is adopted, I make no commitments that I will support LB 372.

PRESIDENT: We are now on Senator Koch's amendment. Senator Kelly, since this is your bill, I will recognize you.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, I didn't want to talk on the Koch amendment.

PRESIDENT: All right. Senator Clark, do you want to